

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN STEVE VICK**, on March 23, 2001 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Steve Vick, Chairman (R)
Rep. Dave Lewis, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Matt McCann, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. John Brueggeman (R)
Rep. Rosalie (Rosie) Buzzas (D)
Rep. Tim Callahan (D)
Rep. Edith Clark (R)
Rep. Bob Davies (R)
Rep. Stanley Fisher (R)
Rep. Joey Jayne (D)
Rep. Dave Kasten (R)
Rep. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Rep. Monica Lindeen (D)
Rep. Art Peterson (R)
Rep. Joe Tropila (D)
Rep. John Witt (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Dick Haines (R)
Rep. Jeff Pattison (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Paula Broadhurst, Committee Secretary
Taryn Purdy, Legislative Branch

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: SB 244, SB 179, SB 326,
3/23/01.
Executive Action: None.

HEARING ON SB 244

Sponsor: Senator Mike Halligan, SD 34.

Proponents: Bruce Brensdel, Department of Commerce,
Jim Edgcomb, Department of Commerce,
Tim Davies, Montana Smart Growth Coalition,
Page Stremlend, Montana Association of Realtors.

Opponents: None.

Informational Witnesses: None.

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Halligan said this is a simple bill and has no fiscal impact, it adds housing projects as a statutory priority to be used to score or rank applications for the treasure state endowment program funding. He handed out information from the Montana Department of Commerce, **EXHIBIT (aph66a01)**.

Proponents' Testimony:

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Bruce Brensdel said as they are trying to do affordable housing around the State of Montana, one of the major costs they are finding is the infrastructure cost. He supports SB 244.

Jim Edgcomb said they can build infrastructure in support of affordable housing. This bill will not allow them to actually be building affordable housing, it allows them to take in account the fact that infrastructures being built in support of affordable housing when they are scoring and ranking projects.

Tim Davies handed out a letter from Philip Maechling, EarthWorks Collaborative, **EXHIBIT (aph66a02)**. He supports SB 244.

Page Stremlend said the Montana Association of Realtors also supports this legislation. One of the biggest deterrents of affordable housing is the cost of infrastructure. They believe this is appropriate to allow local governments to consider that in seeking some funds.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 7.8}

Rep. Vick asked **Senator Halligan** about the non-profit wording in the bill. **Senator Halligan** said there was no attempt to change the eligible applicants.

Rep. Vick asked **Mr. Edgcomb** this is not to finance the construction of the housing project itself. **Mr. Edgcomb** said that is correct, this does not in any way allow them to be building affordable housing itself, only the infrastructure itself that would be serving the affordable housing.

Senator Halligan explained to **Rep. Vick** about the points system in the ranking process.

Rep. Witt asked **Senator Halligan** about local entities needing nudging, and is there other reasons why there is resistance from local government. **Senator Halligan** said the incentive part of this issue, they normally need nudging.

Rep. Kasten asked **Senator Halligan** about the projects and points system in the bill. **Senator Halligan** explained.

Closing by Sponsor:

Senator Halligan said this is a small way but a subtle way for allowing local governments to pursue these types of projects.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 17.2}

HEARING ON SB 179

Sponsor: Senator Tom Zook, SD 2.

Proponents: None.

Opponents: None.

Informational Witnesses: Jane Hammon, Office of Budget and Program Planning.

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Zook said this bill is from the Office of Budget and Program Planning. He explained Section 1 and 2 of the bill.

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Witnesses' Testimony:

Jane Hammon explained many issues they worked on, there were adjustments that needed to be made in law to be able to respond and get the statutory authority out to agencies. She explained in detail Page 5 and 6 of the bill.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 22.7}

Rep. Buzzas asked **Ms. Hammon** to clarify on Page 3, what impact this would have on state budgeting. **Ms. Hammon** explained it was not clear the budget director had to send out detailed instructions by each fund type by the percentage and so forth.

Rep. Jayne asked **Ms. Hammon** in the fiscal note, what part of section 9 makes it consistent with statute. **Ms. Hammon** said this represents the change from the old sibus to the new SABHRS system.

Rep. Witt asked **Ms. Hammon** to explain university system funding in the bill. **Ms. Hammon** said they were trying to clarify the recording of the higher education funds in the system.

Mark Brunno, Governor Budget Office, said they require that the University systems record their operating budgets on the banner system.

Rep. Buzzas asked **Mr. Brunno** if this changes the way the University's currently report. **Mr. Brunno** said they are still using banner as their accounting and administrative system, but the financial information is still being fed to SABHRS.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 5.3}

Rep. Tropila asked **Rep. Lewis** how about 10% reduction instead of 15% reduction. **Rep. Lewis** explained how his sub-committee discussed this issue.

Closing by Sponsor:

Senator Zook made clarification on the State University Funds. He urged support of SB 244.

HEARING ON SB 326

Sponsor: Senator Mike Taylor, SD 37.

Proponents: John Moodry, Butte Silverbow Weed District,
Dave Schultz, Commissioner Madison County and Chair
Montana Weed Summit,
Page Dremland, Montana Association of Realtors,
Marty Malone, Self,
Clay Williams, Park County Weed Control,
Will Kissinger, Montana Department of Agriculture,
Rep. John Esp, HD 25,
John Youngberg, Montana Farm Bureau,
Bob Gilbert, Self,
Kelly Leo, Madison County Weed Department,
Richard Fairweather, Meagher County Weed District.

Opponents: None.

Informational Witnesses: None.

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Taylor said this bill deals with governing weeds. The weeds issue seems to get put in the background, studies have shown we are losing our environment as we know it, at a rapid pace. He handed out pictures of Missoula's landscape, **EXHIBIT (aph66a03)**. Wildlife is disappearing because there is no food for them. He said there is an amendment offered by realtor's that states if a piece of property is sold, and it has noxious weeds, the seller of the property has to tell the seller agent.

Proponents' Testimony:

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 24.2}

John Moodry said the battle against infestations is not being won yet. This legislation would free up his time to work with the U.S. Forest Service BLM and other agencies to build working relationships. He said the Butte Silverbow Weed District supports SB 326.

Dave Schultz said they support SB 326.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0.2}

Page Dremland said they support SB 326. She spoke of the amendment offered in which the seller notifies the agent and the purchaser of their weeds.

Marty Malone said noxious weeds are the greatest environmental threat to Montana right now. This bill allows counties to create and tax land owners that vote to tax themselves to a special management district. It allows counties to create a cost share program for land owners if funds are available within the county. He supports SB 326.

Clay Williams said he represents Park County and Weed Board and Commissioners and they support SB 326.

Will Kissinger said they support SB 326, he said there must be a handle on the situation of the weeds in Montana.

Rep. John Esp supports SB 326.

John Youngberg supports SB 326.

Bob Gilbert supports SB 326.

Kelly Leo supports SB 326.

Richard Fairweather supports SB 326.

Rep. Tropila said his weed supervisor, **Doug Johnson**, supports SB 326.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

Rep. McCann asked **Senator Taylor** about wildlife spreading weeds. **Senator Taylor** said she thinks wildlife have a distinct relationship in spreading noxious weeds.

Rep. Witt asked **Senator Taylor** about bringing the National Forest forward about weed control. **Senator Taylor** said there was a resolution that was passed a few weeks ago, that they strongly suggest the Federal Government cooperate in this.

Rep. Kasten made a comment about not letting hunters drive on his land.

Rep. Witt asked questions to **Dave Schultz** regarding conservation easements.

Closing by Sponsor:

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 17}

Rep. Lewis closed for **Senator Taylor**.

Rep. Kasten commented about the private landowners and the BLM not holding up their part.

Rep. Buzzas asked if there was a statewide weed control plan.

Rep. Lewis handed in information about what **Rep. Gallus** stated. **EXHIBIT (aph66a04)**.

Rep. Lewis spoke to committee on HB 307 about the industry.

Dr. Donovan, College in Butte, speaks to committee on the discussion on HB 307.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:00 A.M.

REP. STEVE VICK, Chairman

PAULA BROADHURST, Secretary

SV/PB

EXHIBIT (aph66aad)